

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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## Editorial

*For Important announcements see page 14, column one and two. Do not fail to read every item of these announcements.*

### Four for One Dollar

We are glad to report that an interest is being awakened in the "Four for one dollar." A sister from Masontown sends two dollars and the names and addresses of eight persons. A sister from North Liberty, Ohio, sends one dollar and four names. Others have been received. We hope to see an interest awakened in this proposition thru-out the entire brotherhood. It is a splendid opportunity to do some missionary work among your friends, for special attention will be given in the columns of the EVANGELIST to the doctrines of the Brethren church. During the next week let us hear from at least 100 persons who are willing to pay one dollar each for the distribution of the paper in the manner and on the plan indicated above. Let everybody get in real earnest for once and push the work quickly.

### The Spirit of Christian Missions

The spirit of Christ is preeminently a missionary spirit. That is not obedience to the great Commission which practically excludes the "Go ye therefore and teach all nations." That cannot be called a gospel church whose highest aspiration is anything less than the saving of souls. Neither is that a gospel church which sets limits to this duty other than the limits of the world. It was this inexorable logic which during the nineteenth century overcame an almost invincible prejudice against missionary enterprise in all the churches, and set them to the work of world wide evangelization. It is the accent of divine authority in this clarion command which is annually pouring millions of money into heathen lands, and carrying to the uttermost parts of the earth the glorious banner of Christ's everlasting kingdom. The greatest achievements of the nineteenth century were not the achievements of science and invention, but rather the rapid propagation of the Christian faith thru-out the world. It was the century of missions, the re-beginning of the evangelization of the world, and unless all signs fail the twentieth century will witness the completion of the work for which earnest souls have been looking and praying ever since the inauguration of the Christian dispensation.

But what is all this to us? We claim to be a gospel church. We insist upon a literal obedience to the precepts of the gospel, and particularly in respect to our form of bap-

tism, which we derive from that same Commission. We inveigh against a practical disobedience as inadmissible in theory and unsafe in practice. We insist upon the importance of honesty in religion and morals. Of all others, we, the Brethren church, claiming to hold the primitive gospel, teaching strict obedience to its commands, strenuously enforcing literal and unwavering obedience to the baptism of the Commission, how can we be indifferent to that command of the Commission upon which all the rest is founded, the marching orders of the church militant.

We do not say that the church as a body is indifferent to its missionary responsibilities. We know on the contrary that the missionary conscience is alive and awake in many of our members, in our churches, and that our conferences have sought to give it wise direction and practical effect, but until the policy of annual conferences gave opportunity for continuous effort, frequent review and earnest discussion, there was almost a total lack of that leading, that initiative and that organization which was necessary to effectualize the missionary sentiment of the church, and it lay in a dormant and disorganized, discouraged condition which rendered effort futile and unavailing. Here and there were sporadic endeavors, occasional individual enterprises, struggling along without co-operation, without organization, without responsibility, in a loose, haphazard, happy-go-lucky way, creditable enough to the zealous preacher who was thus trying singlehanded to discharge the responsibilities of a whole church, but discreditable enough to the leadership which was indifferent to this confusion, or unable to bring order out of this chaos.

But most happily a different policy has finally organized the church, and bound it closely together in a rational co-operative body, directing its missionary energies in an orderly, economical and intelligent manner, widening its sphere of operations, and gradually preparing the foundation of a large, a creditable, a fruitful, a glorious work. What are most to be guarded against are those reactionary influences which would again reduce us to the limits of disintegration and chaos. The church has taken advanced steps in missionary activity and enterprises and the command must ever be, Forward. "Go" should be our constant watchword. For several important reasons we must keep straight on in the path of progress. The first is, that our missionary work may live and not die, and die it will unless we keep moving. There is but one way to keep the missionary spirit and the missionary sentiment alive in the church and that is by constant activity. The missionary spirit survives in that church only that does missionary work. The second is, that our churches at home may live and not die. God blesses the missionary church. When the first missionary society in